
CHAPTER 53 SURVEILLANCE OF A MOTION PICTURE AND TELEVISION FILMING PRODUCTION EVENT

Section 1 Background

1. PTRS ACTIVITY CODE: 1684

3. OBJECTIVE. The objective of this task is to determine if the holder of a Certificate of Waiver is in compliance with the terms of the Certificate of Waiver. Completion of this task results in the continuation or cancellation of an existing waiver.

5. GENERAL.

A. Surveillance. This chapter provides surveillance procedures for evaluating a filming event conducted under the terms of a Certificate of Waiver. These procedures ensure that current programs are thoroughly reviewed and evaluated with an emphasis on safety and intended methods of compliance.

B. Issuance of Waiver. FAA Form 7711-2, Application for Certificate of Waiver or Authorization (Figure 52-1), is reviewed and approved or disapproved. FAA Form 7711-1, Certificate of Waiver or Authorization (Figure 52-2), is issued before the filming production event. (Refer to Chapter 52, Issue a Certificate of Waiver for Motion Picture and Television Filming.) Unless circumstances warrant or the filming event occurs outside the jurisdiction of the certificate holding FSDO, the district office manager assigns surveillance to the inspector who approved the Certificate of Waiver.

C. Compliance. The waiver holder is responsible for compliance with the terms of the Certificate of Waiver and its special provisions.

D. Plan of Activities. At least three days before the scheduled filming, the operator must submit a written plan of activities to the FSDO having jurisdiction over an area of proposed filming. This three day notification requirement may be waived for waiver holders who are contacted for filming at short notice. These waiver holders must justify the exception to the three day requirement.

- (1) The plan of activities must include:

(a) the date and time of the filming;

(b) the name and phone number of the person responsible for the event; and

(c) an outline or summary of the production schedule, including maps or diagrams of the location, if necessary.

E. Waiver Holder Responsibilities. The waiver holder's responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

(1) ensuring the event is run properly, in compliance with all terms and limitations of the waiver and plan of activities;

(2) being familiar with the waiver and aware of individuals responsible for crowd control, emergency facilities, transient aircraft lookouts, etc.;

(3) if transient aircraft enter the area, advising pilots to discontinue their activities until the transient aircraft is clear; and

(4) ceasing operations while spectators are cleared from unauthorized areas.

F. Unauthorized Persons. The public must be protected from undue hazard during filming events. The inspector should keep in mind that filming events may cause passersby to stop to watch the activities. For example, the film participants are performing a mock dogfight over a field bordered by a road. People begin to gather to watch the activities. In this case, the inspector may have to stop the filming production event until the waiver holder can have the crowd moved to a nonrestricted area and thereby regain compliance with the Certificate of Waiver. The inspector should, therefore, suggest to the waiver holder that crowd control procedures of this type be included in the plan of activities.

7. INSPECTOR RESPONSIBILITIES.

A. Surveillance Responsibilities. The inspector's responsibility is to provide adequate surveillance

of the filming event and to ensure compliance with the provisions of the waiver, its associated special provisions, and the plan of activities. The inspector is also on hand to provide guidance in the waiver's general and special provisions. The inspector is not responsible for the management, control, or direction of the filming event. The inspector should not interrupt an event except to address safety-related issues requiring immediate attention. Other inspectors may be assigned to assist in the surveillance; however, all coordination and communication with the waiver holder should be through the inspector who is primarily responsible for the surveillance.

B. *Inspector Authority.* While not limited to the following, the inspector generally has authority to:

(1) approve changes to the effective time and date of the plan of activities;

(2) authorize additional performers to the Certificate of Waiver; and

(3) cancel or delay any or all events if deemed necessary in the interest of safety.

9. PRE-EVENT BRIEFING. After reviewing the plan of activities, the district office manager may determine that on-site surveillance is required. In this case, the inspector will arrange a pre-event briefing with the waiver holder or a designated representative.

A. *Briefing Content.* It is imperative that the briefing cover every aspect of the event. If ground-to-air signals are to be used, they must be clearly understood by all participants. The signals used to discontinue a routine or recall participants should be emphasized.

B. *Role of FAA Inspector.* The inspector is not responsible for conducting the briefing, but must be available at the briefing for any questions concerning the Certificate of Waiver and its provisions. The person designated in the plan of activities as responsible for the filming event should conduct the briefing. However, a designated representative or other person may conduct the filming event. For example, the first briefing may be handled by the waiver holder or

a designated representative, while an event involving an aerial dogfight may be handled by the stunt coordinator.

11. AEROBATIC COMPETENCY. In order for any pilot to perform aerobatic maneuvers at filming events authorized by a Certificate of Waiver, the pilot must have in his or her possession an FAA Form 8710-7, Statement of Acrobatic Competency (Figure 53-1). (Refer to Chapter 31, Issue a Statement of Aerobatic Competency.) The Statement of Acrobatic Competency must have been issued within the preceding 12 calendar months.

13. OBSERVANCE OF FILMING EVENTS. The FSDO that issues a Certificate of Waiver or approves a plan of activities determines the amount of surveillance required to ensure compliance with the terms of the waiver. District office managers should consider the extent of surveillance necessary with respect to the number of aircraft, type of activity, and the potential impact on aviation safety.

A. *Surveillance Team.* If the district office manager determines that the complexity of the event requires on-site surveillance, at least one qualified operations inspector (or a qualified accident prevention specialist) shall be assigned to observe the filming event. Airworthiness, avionics, or other operations inspectors may be assigned. The inspector designated as team leader may also be responsible for training other operations inspectors in filming event surveillance.

B. *Surveillance Team Responsibilities.* The surveillance team is responsible for assuring that the waiver holder complies with the Certificate of Waiver and the associated special provisions.

C. *Control Point.* Experience has proven the value of establishing a control point where the certificate holder, or a designated representative, can control the event. Before the event, a control point site should be established, and the inspector should be familiar with the location of the control point. Since the control point is an ideal location for conducting a portion of the surveillance, the inspector shall be allowed full, easy access to and from the control point.